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For Immediate Release:

JMG Students Take Top Spots in National Competition

(Helena, MT) Two Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) students took first and second place in events at the Annual Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Academy in Washington D.C. Sierra Garza a student at Helena High, took first place in the Employability Skills Competition and Abigail Dronen, a student at Helena's Project for Alternative Learning, took second place in Public Speaking.

"The JAG Leadership Conference was beyond amazing. The skills I learned while attending the Conference will help me successfully interview for jobs and become a stronger leader both in and out of school", said Garza. "It was a once in a lifetime experience."

Garza and Dronen traveled to D.C. with two other students Felicia Earhart from Plains High School and Jordan Monroe from the Paris Gibson Program of Great Falls. The students competed with other JMG students from across the state for the chance to win the trip to compete at the national level. They won the trip by submitting their story about their involvement with JMG and how it has helped them become better students and work towards their goal of graduating high school.

"Washington D.C. was incredible, there were so many beautiful things that I never thought I'd be able to see. JMG has not only given me the skills I need to be successful in the workplace, but it has given me the ability to believe in myself and the opportunity to see our nation's Capital. It was a life changing experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat", said Dronen.

During the Conference, Career Specialist Yenta Jaques from the Paris Gibson Program, was also awarded one of three scholarships from the Apollo Group/University of Phoenix. Yenta plans to use the scholarship to complete her Masters for Leadership in Education.

Earlier this year JMG was awarded with the JAG "5 of 5" Award for the eighth year in a row. JMG currently serves approximately 950 students in 27 High Schools, 12 Middle Schools, seven alternative High Schools and one "Out-of-School" Program.

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